

THE CENTURION OUTPOST

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-YAHNE

Centurion Outpost issue#1 January 2005

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Mission Statement

The Centurion Outpost is a Christian Music magazine that focuses mostly on bands that like to use their music as a ministry to win souls to God. We basically want bands that have a ministry to get some exposure. We cover bands from genres such as Metal, Death Metal, Power Metal, Black Metal, Thrash Metal, Speed Metal, Grindcore, Metalcore, Hardcore, Punk, Street Punk, Hardcore Punk, and even some occasional Hard Rock. As you can see we really like our metal, so you can expect coverage of mostly metal bands. This does not make us an official metal magazine but we will cover ALOT of metal bands so if you like metal, you've come to the right place. Before you subscribe I will warn you that this is nothing high budget. The first few issues will be printed out on standard computer paper in black and white. Luckily it's completely FREE. We will try and mail everything once a month, so we hope and pray we can get twelve issues out by the end of next year. This is the first issue we hope you like it, if you have a friend who wants to subscribe please have them visit www.angelfire.com/scary/centurionoutpost or simply email Dan at criesfrommypast@wmconnect.com. You can contact Dan on AIM at Criesfrommypast and MSN at Criesfrommypast@hotmail.com.

Thanks for subscribing to Centurion Outpost.

-Dan and Mike

Staff Bios

Dan Terry: Editor in Chief

I'm an 18 -year-old college student currently enrolled at ITT Tech. I love metal, especially underground metal. I started this magazine last month and have been working like a dog trying to get it off the ground. I do most of the Album Reviews, Interviews, Articles, and occasionally some artwork.

Dan' s Favorite Albums this month

- *Sorrowstorm-Caverns of Grief/Funeral Oath*
- *The Chariot-Everything is Alive, Everything is Breathing, Nothing is Dead, Nothing is Bleeding*
- *Mortification-Brain Cleaner*
- *Crimson Thorn-Unearthed*
- *Encryptor-Drowning in Flesh*

Mike Yahne: Art Designer

I'm an 18 -year-old college student currently enrolled at Jefferson College. I do most of the artwork for Centurion Outpost. I love metal, hardcore, folk, street punk, dark ambience, and rock.

Mike' s Favorite albums of the Month

- *Vardoger: Whitefrozen*
- *John Renbourn: The Lady and the Unicorn*
- *Training for Utopia: The Falling Cycle EP*
- *Lycia: Wake*
- *The Pogues: Peace and Love*

Contact

Feel Free to Contact us about anything, we would love to talk to you! We want as many opinions as possible, and if we get enough we can start printing them in the magazine. We will try and read each and every email and reply to them as fast as possible.

Mike: mike17@ix.netcom.com

Dan: criesfrommypast@hotmail.com

If you want to write us a letter instead of email us then you can write us at Centurion Outpost 5858 Barberry Drive Imperial MO 63052

Donations

Donations are not required but they help. We hope that eventually we will be able to print on better paper and print in color, and start adding photos and full color magazine artwork. If you are feeling generous and would like to help us out in any way, feel free to send us money, paper, tools or anything else you think could help. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. We are doing this for God and have faith He will provide for us in any way possible. If you want to donate money you can

1. Send well-hidden cash in the mail to 5858 Barberry Drive, Imperial MO, 63052.
2. Send a check made out to Daniel Terry. We will gladly accept anything you send us. Thanks and God Bless all the metal heads.

Why we need donations

- To be able to eventually print in Color
- To get better paper to print on
- To pay for postage

Want your band's Cd in the Magazine?

If you want your band to be covered in Centurion Outpost, you can send us your demo or album at 5858 Barberry Drive, Imperial MO, 63052. If you do send us a cd or demo, please include the full lyrics to the songs. We will not review anything that we haven't read the lyrics to. If your lyrics are printed on your bands website then feel free to just email us the link. If you want to be interviewed in the magazine then feel free to email Dan at criesfrommypast@hotmail.com thanks, God Bless.

Encryptor: Drowning In Flesh

Released: 2001

Label: Dysmorphic Records

If there's one word that is very overused in metal, its brutal. The word brutal should be used only in instances where the music feels like you are taking an RPG to the face. This is the exact feeling I got the first time I listened to Encryptor' *Drowning in Flesh*. This is one brutal piece of art. Not groundbreaking, modern, cutting edge, technical, or even very original, but just thirty minutes of brutal death. The guitars are our usual deep death metal sludge machines, although I think machine guns would be a better description. Bass follows the guitar well and give them a deep extra punch. Drums are done very well, nothing too original but they get the job done, very fast and brutal. Vocally Encryptor sound a lot like Crimson Thorn or Tortured Conscience, so you can expect some pretty deep death growls mixed with some high pitched shrieks to give them a nice scary sound. Lyrically Encryptor is also very brutal. The Lyrics are very ministry oriented and meaningful. Nothing is sugar coated here with lyrics like

"Vanity, insanity, sorcery, adultery, witchery, murder.....all will die. Time to be bondage free, end the sin. Only way out of this is Christ"

For complete lyrics go to www.encryptoronline.com. They are simple and straight to the point just like the music. The downside to this album is mainly in the production. At first the production is so bad that you think it won't be an enjoyable listen, but then it gets better as the album progresses. The CD is raw but I think it would have been more brutal sounding if the drums and guitars had been a bit louder. This is only a small complaint though. The production doesn't affect the album too much; eventually you just get used to it and stop noticing. Overall I really enjoy this CD because I don't hear too many Christian brutal death metal bands anymore. Fans of melodic death metal beware. There is occasional melody on Drowning in Flesh but it is far from the main focus of the sound. Fans of Goredeath, Crimson Thorn, and Early Mortification should really enjoy this album. Sad thing is, is that Encryptor is only a one-man project so we will never see any of this brutality live. For more info on Encryptor go to www.encryptoronline.com or read my Encryptor Interview on page 11. Reviewed by Dan.

Mercury Switch: If You Loved Me You'd Take Me to the City

Released: 2002

Label: Indianapolis Records

There's no real way of describing Mercury Switch using any system of genres. So I'll say just this, it sounds like a chaotic hardcore band, an emo band, and an eighties thrash band are all battling for supremacy. So you can expect a very interesting experience. There is honestly no way of telling what his band will do next. They go from insane hardcore to metal to emo in seconds. Sometimes they mix and match vocal styles. The screaming sounds a bit like old Zao (Shawn Jonas) and The Chariot mixed together, emo vocals remind me a lot of the new Underoath with a lot of spoken word thrown into the mixture. Somehow all of this fits together nicely and it all works smoothly. This disc from Mercury Switch is a sixty minute album of emotion, but there is a bit of humor in there too. The album is littered with movie quotes from the Goonies and the Princess Bride. Lyrically Mercury Switch is very strong. They sing about topics ranging from Loneliness to Sodom and Gomorrah. The central theme of the album seems to say that material possessions are useless. One thing I really like about these lyrics is there is a point to them. Each song, no matter what it's about, leads back to the central theme of the album. I hate it when bands only talk about their personal problems throughout an entire CD, but Mercury Switch switches (ha) it up quite a bit dealing with all kinds of different issues. You kind of have to dig to find the meanings of some of the songs, which I won't complain too much about this since there actually is a message. The production here is fabulous; everything is loud, clear, and crunchy heavy. Vocals are very easy to understand, if you're a fan of hardcore that is. This album has been out for two years, I'm surprised that nobody has really taken a lot of notice to this band. I got this CD used for five dollars. Overall it's a great album to own if you can find it.

Reviewed by Dan.

Faithbomb: Bleed

Released: 2002

Label: SOTD Records

Faithbomb is a very fresh sounding band. When you listen to a lot of metal, you at some point encounter a time when you realize that it's all starting to sound the same. Hopefully when you reach this point in your musical journey, you will go out and buy a copy of *Bleed*. This is not death metal or black metal nor is it really all that extreme at all, but it contains that special something that makes an album golden. Musically Faithbomb plays very groovy heavy metal with a bit of a hardcore feel. The guitars are heavy and gritty sounding (which I love) and they don't like to slow down. The bass is very good and grooves right along with the guitars. The drums are nice and fast with a nice crisp sound to them, so no annoying clicking sounds can be heard. The vocals are gritty and remind me a lot of Mortification's Primitive Rhythm Machine album. No death growls or high-pitched shrieks, just guttural hardcore yelling. Also though Vocalist Rob has an exceptional singing voice, which he utilizes nicely on songs such as *Casting Lots*; he sounds nice, deep and southern. Lyrically Faithbomb shines very brightly. Every song is Christ centered and has its own separate meaning. Downside is that not all the lyrics are printed in the insert. This isn't too big a drawback since the vocals are fairly easy to understand. If you want to read all the lyrics I believe they are posted on www.faithbomb.net. A huge downside to this album is the length, clocking in at only thirty-one minutes it leaves you hungry for more. Granted listening to it again wouldn't be a bad idea. I just wish it had been a tad longer. Faithbomb is supposed to be in the studio working on a new album. In the meantime check out all the awesome albums being released on Rob's new label Bombworks Records. So be sure to visit www.bombworksrecords.com frequently to see what new releases are available.

Reviewed by Dan.

Outcry: Hope for the Torn Heart

Released: 1999

Label: Clenched Fist Records

Every once in awhile a band will go completely unnoticed. This is a terrible shame, especially with Outcry. I honestly know little to nothing about this band. Their EP was released four years before I got it. Clenched Fist Records is gone now, and I can only assume that Outcry is broken up. This kind of thing is heartbreaking because *Hope for the Torn Heart* is a beautiful metal EP. This twenty-two minute EP really tore at my heartstrings. Musically Outcry plays an interesting harsh, nearly black metal sounding, kind of metalcore. Guitars literally tear at your ears, they are very raw and down tuned most of the time, but they play some very melodic intros and interludes. Drums throw in plenty of double bass, blast beats, and crashing symbols. Bass packs a bit of a punch but you've really got to listen to hear it.

Vocals actually sound very black metal; they actually remind me a bit of *Antestors' Return of the Black Death*. The music really has a huge black metal feel to it. The vocals go from very high-pitched ear piercing shrieks to slow monotone spoken word. The music is usually melodic during the speaking parts. The title track *Hope for the Torn Heart* is a melodic masterpiece full of spoken word and melodic guitar work with a great build up towards the end. My personal favorite song on this EP would have to be the fifth and final track *Beyond Belief*. The song starts out with a beautiful melodic guitar line accompanied by a violin. About two minutes into this the metal madness returns with some heavy metalcore riffs until finally the music cuts away with the vocalist screaming "My Jesus! My God! I love You! I praise You! My life is Yours!" The guitars kick back in and more metal madness ensues. Finally the melodic line comes back in and the song ends with a movie quote, but I do not know from what movie. The lyrics on this album are superb. The song *Eve of Destruction* talks about a Christian's friend who goes to hell because he failed to tell him about Christ. *When Sacred Tears Fall* is a song that deals with the filth of man and how the righteousness of God can make our dirty hearts pure. *Hope for the Torn Heart* explains the band's name and their mission statement. *Rooted in Strength* and *Beyond Belief* are great metal praise songs to the Lord. This CD really gave me a lot of inspiration. The only downsides to this CD is that it is way too short, and the fact that I will probably never see any of these songs live, but overall this is a very inspiring record for me, if you see it, do not pass it up.

Reviewed by Dan.

Mortification: Brain Cleaner

Released: 2004

Label: Rowe Productions

This is Mortification's highly anticipated 12th album. *Brain Cleaner* starts off with the song *Boa Constrictor*, a very fast speed metal track that reminds me of *Web of Fire* from *Relentless*, but not nearly as good. Honestly this is my least favorite song on the album. I simply feel that it's too long and repetitive. It's not a bad song; I just feel that the other ten songs on the disc really outweigh it. The Bass line and distorted vocals are really cool sounding though. Next comes *Too Much Pain*. This song sounds like it came off of *Post Momentary Affliction*. A nice piece of the old death/thrash mix with some nice deep death growls by Steve Rowe. He also throws in some nice high-pitched shrieks. There is a nice guitar solo about two minutes into the song. The lyrics are cool as Steve explains that we should rejoice in our sufferings because it makes us more Christ like. *Purest Intent* is a nice groovy song with very heavy plodding verses and groovy chorus' s. Lyrically Steve explains why he won't put out *Scrolls* part two. *Free as a Bird* is an instrumental, and a very good one at that. Steve Rowe plays a nice refreshing bass intro before Mick and Mike kick in. Steve is in my opinion one of the better metal bass players. Unlike most metal bass Steve's is heavy, clear, and actually drives a lot of the songs. The bass carries on into the title track *Brain Cleaner*. This groovy song is laden with guitar leads and solos. Definitely a song that classic metal fans can get into. Lyrics state how the Bible can, you guessed it, clean your brain of all the lies of Satan. This leads us to my favorite song on the disc. *I'm not Your Commodity* starts off with some water sound effects, which dissolves into a breaking crashing sound. The crashing takes us into a thrashy deathy onslaught; only to slow down to a pummeling first verse that sounds like a marching brutal army of death (sorry I got a little carried away). Steve's deep baritone vocals kick in and utter the words "I downright refuse to be, your financial commodity." And from there on the brutal metal onslaught destroys you with an insane guitar solo at the end. *The Flu Virus* starts off with some creepy buzzing noise that dissolves into a nice speedy thrash song about how we should take precautions when we are sick but to also rely on God to heal us and not only on the medicine. The guitar solo at the end of the song rules all. Mick Jelnic places that metal ax well. *Living Like a Zombie* starts off with an intro that reminds me of the old intro to *Scrolls of the Megilloth*. The song actually reminds me a bit of *Metallica*'s *Master of Puppets*, only much heavier, and with more extreme vocals, and a

thundering bass, and the solo is better, ok so it sounds nothing like *Master of Puppets*. The solo is great on this song and leads right into a riff that sounds exactly like the riff from *Distarnished Priest*. This song is about the joy of sharing Christ with the underground metal heads, and the lifestyle that comes from this. *Twelve Men* was an old Lightforce song written in 1986. Only now it is totally Mortified with Steve Rowe' s yelling, some thundering guitars, bass, drums, and a bunch of wicked solos. A song about how to be fishers of Men. *Louder Than the Devil* is a nice thrash/death song with some old school shout down Satan lyrics. "I' ll blow out his brains, he' s gonna wish that I was never born." Some may call this corny or immature but it's no worse than some anti Christian songs I' ve heard. *E.D.* is a fast funny song in the same vein as *DWAM* or *The Majestic Infiltration of Order*. There's a sound by te a few minutes after the song of a bomb exploding. Overall this is a very great album. The production is perfect everything is loud and clear. The musicianship on this album and Relentless prove that Mortification will never be outdated. I personally feel sorry for anyone who passes this album up because it is not *Scrolls* part 2. In my humble opinion I feel that this varied album of mixed influences is Mortifications finest hour.

Reviewed by Dan.

Tortured Conscience: 2001 Demo

Released: 2001

Label: Indie

Ok, I' ll start off by saying that is only a three song 9minute demo. Get ready for the craziest nine minutes of your life. The first song A New Trend starts off with a movie clip but I don't know what movie it's from. Tortured Conscience plays ultra fast death metal (grindcore?). No ballads, melodic parts, or acoustic interludes here folks, just crazy blasting death metal. The music is very fast with a very crunchy guitar mix, thundering bass, and blasting drums. Vocals are mostly deep death growls similar to Encryptor or Crimson Thorn. The vocals are a bit slurred and hard to understand in places, but if you have the lyrics in front of you then you shouldn't have too much trouble. The lyrics are very ministry oriented. A New Trend talks about how the truth of Christ is being twisted and perverted by the world and governments and how important the true words of God are. Chain of the Fallen One explains the necessity of salvation through Christ. In Hell shows you what eternity is like without God in your life. All in all this is a great piece of metal, fans of Crimson Thorn or Encryptor should love it. I believe it is available with a new bonus track on the SOTD Tools of the Trade CD for only \$5 on www.blastbeats.com.

Reviewed by Dan.

Old School Review of the Month, *Living Sacrifice: Inhabit*

Released: 1994

Label: Rex Records

My copy of this album is actually on cassette tape, so it's very nostalgic. I got it very cheaply at Cornerstone with a bunch of other old school metal tapes; I hope they are there again this year. Anyways, dated or not this album can still kill you. Released in 1994 Inhabit was a huge step up from Living Sacrifice' s first two releases. The production here is a bit muffled but very good for the time. This is great American death metal through and through. The drums are very pummeling with lots of double bass and some crazy blast beats. Guitar work is great, at times they are fast and brutal but then they can slow down and become very melodic and haunting. The solos are very good and really Slayer influenced. I can't always hear the bass, but when I can it compliments the guitars very well. My biggest gripe is the vocals. I used to really hate them, now I' ve kind of gotten used to them but I still find them to be a bit annoying. DJ' s vocals are more of a deep yell than a scream or growl. They are very monotonous and repetitive. Also I think he doesn't pronounce the words correctly. When I listen to death metal I like the vocals to be deep and throaty, that is not the case here, DJ does use some cool vocal effects but nothing lasting. I apologize to anyone who thinks I' m being too critical because I probably am. The vocals don' t hurt the music too much, after all at least you can hear them, anybody remember the vocals on *Nonexistent?* Anyways this album is very Christ centered and evangelistic. There is even a salvation prayer in the album insert. Most of the lyrics are from scripture. Some standout songs are Darkened, Sorrow Banished, Not Beneath, and the excellent instrumental Dead Silence. I consider this album to be a classic because it was one of the standout records of the early Christian death metal scene. It reached tons of lost souls with its appealing brutality and dark melodies. It was released in a time when being a Christian death metal band was not trendy; it was music with a mission. This was Living Sacrifice' s last true death metal release, but it still stands up to modern metal fine, you could probably mistake it for a new band if you didn't know any better. All in all this album is a must have for any fan of death metal Christian or secular. This album has, is and will continue to inspire people for years to come to know the truth and to receive Christ and that makes it a Christian metal classic.

Reviewed by Dan.

January Band interview: ENCRYPTOR

Well, I was so impressed with Encryptor's *Drowning in Flesh* album; I decided to contact the one man behind all the brutal thrashing madness. He agreed to do an online interview via AIM. Enjoy.

Dan: Ok so who are you and what do you do in Encryptor?

Encryptor: My name is Felipe Diez III, originally from the Republic of Panama but now living and studying in Rhode Island, U.S.A, where Encryptor is now based in (since Aug. 2004). Since Encryptor is a solo project, I do all the songwriting and recording for the band. It has never and will never perform live, but I guess the drive to succeed compensates for that.

Dan: Bummer for the rest of us haha

Dan: So how did you come up with the name Encryptor?

Encryptor: It took me a few minutes. I wanted a name that people would remember....not too long...not too short...and "Encryptor" just came to mind and stuck. Afterwards, I gave it a meaning. To "encrypt" is to permanently etch, just like the word of God encrypts itself into our hearts and souls.

Dan: Awesome, I remember thinking to myself when I heard the name "wow that is the most brutal sounding name I've heard in awhile"

Dan: What do you feel is or was the purpose behind Encryptor's music?

Encryptor: The purpose behind the music is to supply Christians and non-Christians with brutal music, as this is not usual in Christian music at all. My goal is not to be technical or complex or modern, it is to be extremely brutal and fast. The music was made to bless people who hear it, and who read the lyrics. It is made to inspire people to explore their callings with God and to enjoy the beats. Another goal is to completely humiliate the dark empires of this world with a crushing blow that knocks over their feeble towers.

Dan: That is awesome especially since there is a large number of bands out there now that like to say they are "Christians in a band" and do not focus on ministry, what are your thoughts on bands such as these and how they affect the Christian music scene here in America?

Encryptor: There are people who are not called to be in ministry, and I will not judge them. Some are not cut out for this kind of thing. However, scripture does take into account, in the parable of the talents, that everyone's talents should be invested in souls and used for the Lord. You will receive compensation based upon what you do here on earth and how you do it. For bands who "sell-out" to Christ (not change their message delivery, just completely sell-out), I have little respect for this and

frown upon it, but I still cannot judge them. There are so few of us, they should be thinking about the scene; the movement, and not about themselves.

Dan: Right, also I feel that there is a very strong need for more ministry oriented bands out there.

Dan: So do you feel that you've gotten good reactions to your ministry?

Encryptor: Yes I have. Better than I thought I would ever get. But I attribute this to God 100%. I personally would never be able to do this on my own. I have a saying that goes like this, "Depend on God, yet work like a slave. Your work depends on God's support, and God's support depends on your work."

Dan: Wow that is so true, also considering what Christ has done for us.

Encryptor: Thousands of people, thanks to the Holy Spirit, have been blessed with this music, and have written me hundreds of letters with very interesting things that God has done with Encryptor. The fact that he uses this brutal music coming from a sinner just shows how great our God is.

Dan: Definitely

Dan: So have you gotten many negative comments over the past few years over the extreme nature of your music? My Girlfriend is not a huge Encryptor fan ha ha ha.

Encryptor: hahahahaha , yes I have.

Dan: Does this bother you ever, or do you feel that the good outweighs the bad?

Encryptor: Many Christians have complained about the music being too brutal, or the vocals being too sick (this is a compliment), or the music not being able to glorify God (as usual), but many have been indirect. After all, they don't want to upset the guy with the grunting vocals. They may be indirect about it by gossiping, giving little hits, etc. I have NEVER gotten any negative responses in the secular metal world as to the music, but many people have disliked the idea that the message is Christian. You get stuff from both sides. No This does not bother me, I want peoples reactions, good and bad, the more reactions the better. Sermon Decay is not the most positive album out there. Some people in Latin America did mention that they thought I was a bit harsh with it. But it was nothing big at all. I'm sure people gossip and whisper here and there, but that happens to every band. Nothing I can do but keep on promoting the stuff

Dan: Definitely, I sing for a metalcore band whose music isn't all that brutal, but people still say it is a bit too extreme.

Dan: So what bands or people do you feel have inspired you musically and lyrically?

Encryptor: Well here's where things get controversial a bit. My influences are secular. Lyrically, I just write what comes to mind.

Dan: Hey secular or Christian, influences are influences, its up to you what you do with them.

Encryptor: But, when it comes to lyrical structure, Suffocation has inspired me a lot. Yes. When I say that a secular band has inspired me lyrically, one might be a bit shocked. But they do not inspire me in the actual spirit, philosophy, or content. Simply the structure of how they write. Kind of like a sentence structure. or a way of writing.

Dan: exactly, it's not what they are saying but, how it is being said

Encryptor: Yes but I plan on refining the lyrical structure of Encryptor in the future.

Dan: What CD' shave you been listening to lately?

Encryptor: Oh man. That's like asking me what foods I've been eating lately ha ha ha ha. I have been listening to all kinds of metal.

Dan: Sorry, not everything, just a few you could think of off the top of your head.

Encryptor: Popping in cds like crazy and clicking songs on my Real Player play list. Well as for music similar to Encryptor, I have been listening to some Disgorge (mex and cali), Devourment, Purulent, Cinerary, Internal Suffering, Defaced, and Suffocation. Also, of course, Crimson Thorn and Tortured Conscience.

Dan: I can definitely see the connection.

Dan: So what do you see in the future for Encryptor? Or are you working on any other projects right now?

Encryptor: Well, I am working on too many projects right now. I am not even thinking about Encryptor right now. Except for the fact that there is a good chance that the great new label BOMBWORKS RECORDS will re-edit the first two works of Encrypt or to distribute in various places, mostly in the United States. This is due to the high demand for this product.

Dan: I really love what I' m hearing from Bomb works

Encrypt or: Yes, Bomb works is excellent. Rob is a winner

Dan: Ok well thanks for taking time out for Centurion Outpost to talk to us, any closing comments or advice for any existing or new Encrypt or fans?

Encrypt or: You can listen to some music from the Sermon Decay album at <http://www.purevolume.com/encryptor>

Write me at Minister_of_Music@yahoo.com for anything.

Or AIM me at Sermon Decay.

You will not hear much from Encrypt or now, or next year, other than the re-release, but I will be more than willing to share experiences with you.

God bless you and stay brutal for metal and especially for Christ.

Dan: Awesome, thanks again, God Bless.

Where has all the Metal Gone?

In the past 30 years Christian metal has been growing and growing. I thought that it was thriving more than ever a few years ago in the later 90s, but after my visit to Cornerstone 2004 I'm not so convinced. Cornerstone had hundreds of great bands to listen to...if you were only into hardcore, metalcore, emo, or punk. What's missing from this picture? METAL BANDS!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Where were all the metal bands? There was only one metal band amidst the hardcore dominated festival that stood up for metal. That band was Aletheian. Anyone who saw them will never forget them as they blazed through their spellbinding set of progressive melodic death metal. Aletheian played three times in the five day period, Mike and me went and saw them all three times and each time they were more amazing than the last. Yet they were the only metal band there (that I know of, I apologize to any metal band that was there that I did not see; I wish now that I would have). So I decided to talk to Joel, the singer, after the final show. I asked him about the lack of metal at Cornerstone. He said that he'd noticed it as well and we spoke about how it seems that the Christian metal scene is dying. Now the scene isn't dead yet by any means, but there is a significant lack of coverage of it. I know that there are hundreds of bands out there that nobody has ever heard of, or have broken up due to lack of press. Nowadays it seems like everyone is into hardcore and metalcore, but even the metalcore lacks a lot of metal influence. I'm sure I'm not alone when I say that I'd love to see more metal bands at these festivals. I cannot do this alone though, I'm sure if metal fans contacted the festival promoters and asked if they could get their favorite metal bands to play it would make all the difference. A lot of these bands are willing to play anytime anywhere. Nearly all the contact I've made with my favorite bands has been positive and meaningful. Just emailing a band and telling them how much you appreciate them and what they are doing can help. Nearly all of them are willing to talk to you and answer any questions you may have. I'm afraid that if we, the fans, do nothing to help our scene, that true Christian Metal will keep dying at a rapid rate. I have nothing against the other styles; I love Hardcore, Metalcore, and Punk as much as the next guy, but I feel that all of the styles of extreme music should be represented. Metal is just as important as any other genre. Now I know of course that there is still a great many metal bands out there, and the scene isn't in as big of danger as I make it out to be, but I guarantee that if everyone in this scene doesn't do their part to help preserve their favorite art, then it will seriously be in jeopardy. What can you do to help? Tell more people about your favorite metal bands. If you're in a band, keep

rockin out for God. If you've got a lot of time on your hands, start a magazine like I did. The most important thing is prayer. It may sound crazy to pray for your

favorite bands, but its not easy playing extreme Christian music of any kind. Write the bands letters of encouragement, let them know you are still interested in what they do. Just remember that true Christian metal is a group effort and should be supported by those of us who love it, so keep rockin out for Christ and remember that God Rulz.

-Dan

In the February Issue there will be

1. Reviews for Demoniciduth, Sabbatarium, Mortal Treason, Sacrificium, Drottnar, and many others.
2. Interview with Demoniciduth
3. Mortification and Crimson Moonlight Posters
4. More articles and Bible studies (so you'll have more to read than just cd reviews).



If you are not a Christian and you want to become one, here are some good facts to know.

1. Adam and Eve were the first humans created by God.
 - a. They could live with God forever because they were innocent.
 - b. Satan (the devil, Lucifer...etc) tricked Adam and Eve into breaking God's law.
2. Adam and Eve were condemned to death for their sin and cast out of the Garden of Eden to die.
 - a. Since they were sinful, their offspring were sinful.
 - b. We stemmed from Adam and Eve, so we are sinful.
3. God pitied our poor pathetic souls.
 - a. We were born sinful so we are doomed to die from birth.
 - b. In order to pay the debt for sinning, a life is required as payment.
4. God came down and walked as a man as Jesus.
 - a. Jesus was a man but He was also God
 - b. Jesus was not sinful from birth because He was God and did not stem from Adam and Eve.
5. Jesus died and paid the debt for humanity's sin
 - a. Jesus was able to pay the debt for humanity because He was not sinful.

b. Since Jesus was God, his death was sufficient payment for all the sins of humanity, past and present.

6. Three days after His death, God raised Jesus from the dead.

a. Jesus rose and explained that He was the judge on whether or not we went to Heaven or Hell when we died.

b. Jesus holds our salvation in His hands because He paid the debt for our sins.

7. Jesus explained that in order to get to Heaven when you die, you have to believe in Him and acknowledge what He did for you.

a. When you accept Him and believe in Him, you will receive His gift of salvation in the form of the Holy Ghost (or Holy Spirit).

b. The Holy Ghost is God's/Jesus' spirit dwelling within you.

c. When you receive the Holy Ghost, you will be able to enter Heaven and live forever with God when you die.

8. Satan is jealous of God's majesty and is dedicated to destroying all that God creates and loves.

a. This means that Satan hates you (because God loves you). So he will do anything to keep you from getting the Holy Ghost.

b. Satan will do this by trying to make you believe ANYTHING but God's truth.

- c. Satan will try and steal as many souls as he can from God, before God returns and destroys him.
- 9. Christ will return to Earth sometime in the future to destroy the world and take with Him all those who have the Holy Ghost, all the rest will be sent to Hell and live in eternal separation from God.
- 10. If you want to become a Christian and go to Heaven when you die, pray this prayer.

"Jesus, I ask You to forgive me for my sins and set me free from the powers of the Devil. I want You from this moment on to be Lord in my life and I want You to take away the burdens of my heart. Jesus I believe that You are God and that You died and rose from the dead as Your word (the Bible) says. I believe that You once and for all, totally defeated Death and the Devil. I ask that You receive me as Your child and to save me right now. Thank You Jesus. In Christ' s name I pray Amen."

For more information, read the Bible (available at any public library or local church) and check into a local Bible Believing Church. God Bless you on your new life.

-Dan



